

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**

**JANUARY 16, 2024 – 6:00PM**

**PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

1. Maggie Crouch, Chief Deputy County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT 15**

B. Perkins, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, E. Sowards

**TOTAL ABSENT 4**

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much and thank you for your service, it's a pleasure having you here this evening."

Chief Deputy Clerk Crouch stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "This evening, we were scheduled to have a presentation from Joel Vanderbush. I am going to have to suspend this and see if he can get this done in record time. Thank you, Chairman Brunk, we'll see if he's able to make it in a bit later. For now, we'll move forward with the agenda with that exception."

2. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the December 21, 2023, Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioners Dewith and Burns seconded."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - (NONE)** (Three calls were made.)

4. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of highlights...there has been a force that you might have imagined with the weather we have had, it's been pretty light activity, but that's allowed projects that Illiniwek, Niabi and Indian Bluff to continue. I would say that if the weather moderates a little bit, some of the best hiking you can do is during the winter months, especially, if you go on the back side of Loud Thunder because the underbrush is kind of cleared away and are good paths to follow. And so, if you haven't gotten out there lately, I would suggest to you if you have a free afternoon or some time, do yourself a favor and get out there."

5. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$223,444.62, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to waive the reading and approve the FY24 Transfers of Appropriations as enumerated in your packets. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Commissioner Simmer moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Dewith and Enburg seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Mielke moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolutions RE: Semi Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes and having those remain closed, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

(Note\*\* The Resolution is in .pdf format and begin on the next page)

**Resolution**  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District  
Re: Open Meetings Act Review of Minutes of a Meeting Lawfully Closed

**WHEREAS**, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission strictly adheres to all provisions of the Open Meetings Act as defined in 5 ILCS 120; and

**WHEREAS**, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c), calls for periodic review of minutes of meetings lawfully closed to determine if the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of these minutes or that the minutes or portions therefor no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, during regular committee meetings held during the month of January, 2023; Rock Island County Forest Preserve has reviewed minutes of closed meetings for all previously held closed sessions.

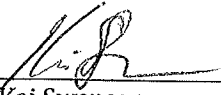
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following meeting minutes have been determined to contain matters where the need for confidentiality still exists:


<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Reason for Closed Session</u>
08-08-1986	Personnel
12-05-1986	Personnel
02-08-1991	Personnel & Potential Liability
07-10-1992	Personnel
02-05-1993	Investments contracts
05-07-1993	Personnel
08-15-1995	Personnel
08-05-2005	Litigation
09-30-2010	Personnel
10-08-2010	Personnel
12-03-2010	Personnel
03-04-2011	Personnel
04-05-2012	Personnel
06-05-2012	Personnel
06-07-2012	Personnel
06-08-2012	Personnel
06-27-2012	Personnel
06-28-2012	Personnel
10-15-2012	Litigation & Personnel
07-11-2013	Personnel
09-12-2013	Litigation
11-14-2013	Litigation & Personnel
12-12-2013	Litigation & Personnel
01-16-2014	Litigation
11-13-2014	Personnel
02-11-2015	Personnel
04-16-2015	Personnel
10-14-2015	Personnel
11-10-2015	Personnel
02-16-2016	Potential Litigation
03-17-2016	Personnel
04-12-2016	Personnel

06-15-2016	Litigation
01-10-2017	Litigation
04-11-2017	Litigation
01-09-2018	Personnel
11-13-2018	Personnel & Land Acquisition
02-11-2020	Personnel
12-15-2020	Litigation
07-13-2021	Land Acquisition
07-20-2021	Land Acquisition
10-13-2021	Negotiations
01-11-2023	Land Acquisition
06-13-2023	Land Acquisition

This *Resolution* to become effective immediately after passage. Minutes of those meetings determined to be made available for public inspection will be released as per the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

DONE IN OPEN MEETING THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

  
 Kai Swanson  
 President, Rock Island County  
 Forest Preserve Commission

  
 Karen Kinney  
 Secretary, Rock Island County  
 Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Mielke moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson added, "Just as a reminder any Member is welcome to review any of those closed-session minutes by visiting the Forest Preserve Commission office."

8. Commissioner Simmer moved to waive the reading and approve the Niabi Zoo Scott County Regional Development Authority Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Receipt of Grants Fund – Woodward Community Grant Fund, and Liability Fund Additional Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

(Note\*\* The Resolutions are in .pdf format and begins on the next page)

## RESOLUTION

FY 2024 Niabi Zoo Fund Scott County Regional Development Authority Grant  
Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo was awarded funds from the Scott County Regional Development Authority for improvements to the train at Niabi Zoo, and

**WHEREAS**, the Scott County Regional Development Authority grant has been received in full, and

**WHEREAS**, the purchase of train improvements is required at Niabi Zoo, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$3,211.59 to be transferred from grant funds already received and unencumbered in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:


AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$3,211.59	131-32-35 337.70 SCRA24	Local Grants-Culture & Recreation

SECTION 3. Expenditures in the amount of \$3,211.59 shall be increased from unencumbered funds in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$3,211.59	131-32-35 523 SCRA24	Repairs & Maintenance Supplies

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

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Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

## RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Receipt of Grant Funds-Woodward Community Grant Fund

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to increase the budget for the purchase of observational equipment and increase security throughout Niabi Zoo, and

**WHEREAS**, (WCGF24) Woodward Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00 was awarded to Niabi Zoo in October of 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from grant funds already received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$9,783.50 to be transferred from grant funds already received and unencumbered in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

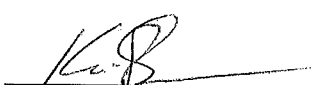
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$9,783.50	131-32-35 337.70 WCGF24	Local Grants-Culture & Recreation


SECTION 3. An amount of \$9,783.50 be transferred from the above described revenue received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$429.50	131-32-35 524.00 WCGF24	Small Tools & Equipment
\$9,354.00	131-32-35 768.00 WCGF24	Machine & Equipment > \$5000

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

## RESOLUTION

Re: FY 24 Liability Fund Additional Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Forest Preserve Liability Fund #133 for the necessary expenses incurred for the 2024 Fiscal Year, and

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required for professional services and other general liability insurance payments, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve Liability Fund #133, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$22,642.95 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve Liability Fund #133 to the following:

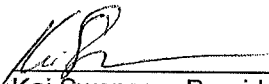
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$22,642.95	133-32 369.98	Settlement Refunds

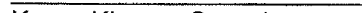
SECTION 3. An amount of \$22,642.95 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve Liability Fund #133 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$1,642.95	133-32 523	Repair & Maintenance Supplies
\$21,000.00	133-32 768.00	Machinery & Equipment > \$5,000

SECTION 4. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission



Commissioner Simmer moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Layer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Foster moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution RE: Certification of the QCCVB dba Visit Quad Cities, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

(Note\*\* The Resolution is in a .pdf format and begins on the next page)

## **RESOLUTION**

### **RE: Certification of the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau DBA Visit Quad Cities**


**WHEREAS**, the travel and tourism industry is extremely important to the Quad Cities Area, contributing to our employment, economic prosperity, and international trade, peace, understanding, and goodwill; and

**WHEREAS**, each of us benefits from the effects of tourism. It substantially enhances our personal growth and education. Tourism also promotes inter-cultural and understanding and appreciation of the geography, history and people of the Quad Cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau dba Visit Quad Cities has been designated in the past as the representative body for the tourism promotion for the geographical area of Rock Island County, Illinois, and has received a grant from the Illinois Bureau of Tourism as part of the Local Tourism & Convention Bureau.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Illinois that the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau dba Visit Quad Cities is the representative body for tourism promotion for the geographical area of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, Rock Island County, Illinois beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

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Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Simmer and Layer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Layer moved to waive the reading and the 2024 user fees for the District, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Dewith and Woods seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            14**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried. Commissioner Westpfahl votes no.

Commissioner Westpfahl stated, "I haven't had a chance to see it."

President Swanson stated, "Okay, just as a Point of Order...are you not receiving the packets?"

Commissioner Westpfahl answered, "This is all I get and I haven't had one for a month."

President Swanson stated, "Oh, I will bring that up with Ms. Sullivan. Thank you, Mr. Westpfahl...I thought all of those who were choosing paper were still getting out the packet. I will make it known to Ms. Sullivan. Sorry, for any inconvenience to you."

Ms. Oberbroeckling asked, "Mr. President, would you just like us just to declare Mr. Westpfahl as a vote for no?"

President Swanson stated, "Oh that's right because if we can't adopt a previous roll...then, we need to make this a new roll call vote. So, thank you very much, I appreciate that. And, thank you too, Mr. Westpfahl, for bringing that up. I ask the Deputy Clerk to please call the roll."

Commissioner Layer asked Mr. Westpfahl, "Do you get emails?"

Commissioner Westpfahl asked, "Do I look like and d%#m idiot?"

(Overlapping comments from Commissioners that were inaudible)

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                13**

J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL NO                1**

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Motion carried. And, as a Point of Order, profanity will not be observed kindly in these proceedings. Those who have to use profanity, you will have to leave the chambers. Thank you."

11. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Paymerang Master Services Agreement, as presented. Commissioners L. Moreno seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                14**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

12. **Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

President Swanson stated, "I will let you know, hopefully, we will get Mr. Vanderbush here. He just came back from a research trip to Southern Africa for our Painted Dogs Partnership. Once, again, your local zoo is taking part in species protection programs and that is something I think is very worthy to be proud of. So, thank you all for that. Seeing no Comments from Commissioners, or questions...I ask for a motion to approve all routine reports from the Director and the Department Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission."

13. Commissioner Dewith moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Simmer and Layer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                14**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Friends, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 5:30pm, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board in the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois in these Board Chambers!"

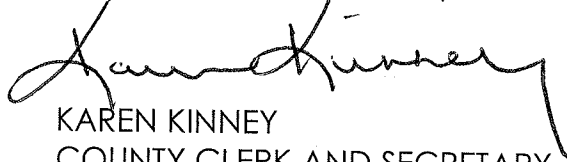
Commissioner Westpfahl stated, "You have a correction on that because you have February 13<sup>th</sup> and it's February 20<sup>th</sup>."

President Swanson stated, "I am terribly sorry, can I take that as a friendly amendment without going through a whole bunch of riggermarole? Is there any opposition to take that as a friendly amendment? Then absent any roll call, that amendment shall be reflected in the Clerk's minutes."

President Swanson stated, "Thanks friends for being here and stay warm!"

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:08pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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